

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for locating resources within a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a) formulating, by a client computer, a query, the query including one or more attributes;

b) sending, by the client computer, the query to a server computer;

10 c) formulating, by the server computer, a response, the response including zero or more resources identified by the attributes in the query; and

d) sending, by the server computer, the response to the client computer.

15 2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein step c further comprises the step of mapping, by the server computer, the attributes in the query to one or more resources within the computer network.

20 3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of mapping further comprises the step of searching a network database containing mappings between attributes and resources.

4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the response includes zero or more alphanumeric strings associated with the resources identified by the attributes in the query.

25 5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the response includes zero or more numeric addresses associated with the resources identified by the attributes in the query.

6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein step c further comprises the step of translating alphanumeric strings associated with the resources to equivalent numeric addresses.

7. A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the server computer performs the translating step using a DNS lookup.

8. A data storage medium having machine-readable code stored thereon, the machine-readable code comprising instructions
5 executable by an array of logic elements, the instructions defining a method comprising the steps of:

a) formulating, by a client computer, a query, the query including one or more attributes;

10 b) sending, by the client computer, the query to a server computer;

c) formulating, by the server computer, a response, the response including zero or more resources identified by the attributes in the query; and

15 d) sending, by the server computer, the response to the client computer.

9. A data storage medium as recited in claim 8 wherein step c further comprises the step of mapping, by the server computer, the attributes in the query to one or more resources within the computer network.

20 10. A data storage medium as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of mapping further comprises the step of searching a network database containing mappings between attributes and resources.

25 11. A data storage medium as recited in claim 8 wherein the response includes zero or more alphanumeric strings associated with the resources identified by the attributes in the query.

12. A data storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the response includes zero or more numeric addresses associated with the resources identified by the attributes in the query.

13. A data storage medium as recited in claim 5 wherein step c further comprises the step of translating alphanumeric strings associated with the resources to equivalent numeric addresses.

5 14. A data storage medium as recited in claim 6 wherein the server computer performs the translating step using a DNS lookup.

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